



## City of Gaithersburg Press Release

**Contact:** Public Information Director  
City of Gaithersburg  
301-258-6310  
cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov

### For Immediate Release

## **“Figuratively Speaking” Exhibit Opens October 4 at Arts Barn**

**Gaithersburg, MD (September 19, 2019)** Gaithersburg’s *Arts on the Green* presents “Figuratively Speaking,” an exhibit that explores the art of the human figure from a variety of styles and genres. The exhibit was curated by Mary Weiss-Waldhorn and is on display at the Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Road, from October 4 through November 18, 2019. Viewing hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 1:30 to 5 p.m. The Arts Barn will also be open on October 13 during Oktoberfest from Noon to 5 p.m. The public is invited to meet the artists during a free Artists Reception on Thursday, October 17 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Attendees are also invited to the Olney Art Association Exhibit artist reception, taking place on the same day and time at the adjacent Kentlands Mansion.

“Figuratively Speaking” features the work of photographer Patricia Stockman, sculptor Maduka Francis Uduh, and drawing artists and painters Johan Lowie and Myron Barnstone. These artists see the human figure metaphorically and have unique artistic visions of their subject matter.

**Patricia Stockman** wraps mannequins in clear tape and then removes them from their casts, creating lightweight, ethereal and figurative imagery, which she photographs in natural settings. Patricia states that her work addresses themes of time and space, repetition, and altered states of presence. She tries to capture light and movement in a single instant. The transparent figures absorb the color and light of their environment as they interact with each other and form a relationship with the viewer. Patricia is an educator, photographer and digital artist and a member of The Artists Gallery in Frederick, MD.

**Maduka Francis Uduh** is a multimedia artist who works with wood, metal, clay, mosaics, and beads. He was a successful practicing artist in Nigeria before he moved to the U.S. three years ago to be closer to his family. A respected international sculptor, Maduka has sold pieces through London auction houses. He blends traditional themes and styles with a contemporary edge, creating figurative sculptures that evoke emotion and gestural action through a spare, stylized design. The viewer is pulled into his work by the beauty of his forms and the messages they are trying to convey.

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## 2 – 2 – 2/Figuratively Speaking Exhibit

Belgian artist **Johan Lowie** practices drawing the human figure from life. He puts his very personal touch on his images of the posing models by placing them in streams of line, color and light, turning them into metaphoric characterizations. Observations of his surroundings and personal stories or reflections on people's or his own personal behavior are his main interests. He wants to bring the viewer into a relationship with the emotion or story he is evoking in his figures. Johan has been practicing his art for many years and is in many fine art collections. He resides in Frederick, MD.

The late **Myron Barnstone** was an internationally known artist who favored drawing and painting in his work. He was also an acclaimed educator who founded the Barnstone Studios School of Art. His teaching acumen lives on through online videos of the techniques he perfected to teach color, drawing and painting. Myron's approach to the human figure, like all of the artists in this exhibit, is both metaphorical and metaphysical, dealing with raw emotions of the human spirit. One of his most famous series of paintings interprets the anguish of the Holocaust. His images are full of movement, stylized with a Cubist quality to them. Myron's sense of color is apparent in all of his paintings and his life drawings are uniquely, personally interpreted. The Barnstone Studios collection is curated by his daughter, Cat Szafran.

Please note that some of the artwork is for sale and all images are copyrighted by the artists. For more information, please contact Shellie Williams at 301-258-6394 or e-mail [shellie.williams@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:shellie.williams@gaithersburgmd.gov).

The *Arts on the Green* visual arts program is funded in part by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC). To discover more about MSAC grants and how they impact Maryland's arts sector, visit [www.msac.org](http://www.msac.org).

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